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with the 12-inch telescope. It was a small object, nearly round, about 3' in diameter, with a well marked central condensation, hardly sharp enuf to be called a nucleus. It was low in the eastern sky just before dawn, and its motion was found to be to the south and east, towards the Sun. Measures were not difficult on this night nor on September 20th, for the observing conditions were good. On the two following nights, September 21st and 22d, wind and poor seeing, and moonlight made the comet exceedingly faint. On September 21st no star was available for direct measures, and the approach of dawn permitted only four measures in each co-ordinate, by transits, from a star nearly 2^m distant. This observation should be given small weight in the definitive orbit discussion. Strong moonlight and the comet's rapid approach to the Sun prevented further measures. It was looked for in the western sky after sunset in October, but without success.

R. G. AITKEN.

November 8, 1915.

A BRILLIANT AURORA.

In the early morning hours of June 17, 1915 (civil time), a beautiful aurora was seen from Mount Hamilton. It was first noticed shortly after midnight and became most brilliant at about 2:30 (P. S. T.). The illumination extended from 15° to 30° west of north to 80° or 90° east of north. The streamers reached half way to the zenith,—up into the Milky Way about *Cassiopeia*. Few of the streamers were as long as 60°, and the forms were changing constantly. There was a distinct crimson color in the east,—just over Copernicus Peak as seen from near the 12-inch dome.

An aurora in California,—at least in the region around San Francisco Bay,—is a very rare phenomenon, and I have no recollection of ever having seen one in this region before.

S. D. TOWNLEY.

OBSERVED ROTATIONS OF PLANETARY NEBULÆ.

An observation of planetary nebula NGC 7009, R. A. 20^h 58^m, Decl. — 11° 48', secured with the three-prism Mills spectrograph on the evening of November 14, 1915, showed us,